



March 21, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: GN Docket No. 14-28, Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet
GN Docket No. 10-127, Framework for Broadband Internet Service**

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We, the undersigned, write today on behalf of Voices for Internet Freedom in order to respond to the Federal Communications Commission's public notice soliciting comment on how to best proceed to protect consumers and the open Internet following the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Verizon v. FCC*.

The diverse organizations represented within the membership of Voices for Internet Freedom are united in our belief that there is only one path forward that would allow the Commission to fully protect the communities that we represent from unfair and discriminatory practices planned by Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and achieve other important policy goals. That path requires the Commission to reclassify the transmission component of broadband Internet access service as a Title II telecommunications service. Any rulemaking proceeding that the Commission undertakes on this issue must fully contemplate this proposed course of action.

Voices for Internet Freedom is comprised of nearly thirty organizations that represent diverse communities across the country. Led by Free Press, the Center for Media Justice, ColorOfChange and the National Hispanic Media Coalition, Voices is a network of organizations advocating for communities of color in the fight to protect Internet freedom from corporate and government discrimination. Through coalition-building, rapid response, and communications, Voices ensures the Internet remains an open and nondiscriminatory platform for free speech and assembly.

In our view, this is a historic moment of extraordinary significance for our communities. The slate has been wiped clean by the DC Circuit and consumers are currently unprotected from the profit-driven whims of ISPs. We can either seize the opportunity to thrive, unobstructed, or be impeded, yet again, by government and corporate gatekeepers. The fight to protect Internet

freedom is critical to protecting dissenting voices and ensuring that our communities control our own image and tell our own stories in the digital age.

In order to fully protect and preserve the Internet, the Commission must take decisive action. While we understand that you view Title II as being “on the table” during this process, our communities need you to go further. Title II cannot just be on the table; Title II needs to be the main course. While we do not contest that the Commission can take some positive steps with respect to broadband deployment through Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act, it is clear that to achieve the most important fundamentals of open Internet access, and prevent the voices of our communities and others from being discriminated against or shut out completely, the Commission must use its Title II authority.

Further, the Commission has long-recognized that, to achieve other policy objectives that we care deeply about, it must also utilize its Title II authority. Crucial to our vision of an open Internet is the understanding that our communities deserve and require universal access to broadband and must have our privacy vigorously protected while we are online – from corporations and the government alike. As Commission leadership has pointed out in the past, these objectives would be jeopardized by any action short of Title II reclassification.

Attached, you will find a plethora of public statements, press clippings and other materials that our groups and others have produced in recent weeks demonstrating broad and energetic support for reclassification. You will also find information about a truly “boffo” petition drive that enlisted the support of more than 1 million individuals in only a few weeks calling on the Commission to protect the Open Internet and to reclassify.

We look forward to remaining engaged in what we hope will be a robust public dialogue that fully explores all of the tools that the Commission has at its disposal and results in strong, proactive rules that will protect our communities and all Internet users.

Respectfully submitted,

Free Press

Center for Media Justice

National Hispanic Media Coalition

ColorOfChange